

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for diagnosing cardiovascular disease, comprising providing contact between a sample of body fluid and phosphocholine and/or derivative thereof, assessing the presence and/or concentration of antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in the sample of body fluid, and evaluating said presence and/or concentration of antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in the sample of body fluid as an indicator of cardiovascular disease.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said diagnosis of a cardiovascular disease comprises a diagnosis of the risk of ~~early~~-atherosclerosis, hypertension or thrombosis.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 comprising measuring said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by immunoassay.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 comprising measuring said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 comprising measuring said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by radioimmunoassay.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in serum prepared from a blood sample.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2 comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in plasma prepared from a blood sample.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising measuring said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by immunoassay.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~the~~The method of claim 1 comprising measuring said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising nmeasuring antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by radioimmunoassay.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in serum prepared from a blood sample.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in plasma prepared from a blood sample.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sample of body fluid is a human blood sample or fraction thereof, and said measurement is by immunoassay.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said derivative is phosphorylcholine.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said derivative is lysophosphatidylcholine.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said derivative is phosphocholine, phosphorycholine, ~~phosphatidyleholine~~ or lysophosphatidylcholine.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said derivative is phosphocholine, phosphorycholine, ~~phosphatidyleholine~~ or lysophosphatidylcholine.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said derivative is phosphocholine, phosphorycholine, ~~phosphatidyleholine~~ or lysophosphatidylcholine.

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20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6
wherein said derivative is phosphocholine, phosphorycholine,
~~phosphatidylcholine~~ or lysophosphatidylcholine.